

A recent study by the Alan Guttmacher Institute, a nonprofit corporation for reproductive health research, policy analysis and public education, stated funding cuts will restrict 7 million couples in developing countries from using modern contraceptive methods. This will result in 1.9 million more unplanned births, 134,000 more infant deaths, and 8,000 more women dying in childbirth and pregnancy, including from unsafe abortions. In fact, due to the dearth of funding, there will be at least 1.6 million more abortions in developing countries in just 1 year.

Family planning services offer often lifesaving health care services, including family planning, prenatal services, maternal and infant health programs, treatment of infertility, and the prevention of AIDS. The more we limit funds for family planning, the more we will spend on money for destitute children and health care for the sick.

Long-term costs of the cuts may prove so disastrous that the United States will wind up spending more than it will save. Worsening population trends mean the United States may confront more international instability, greater depletion of important global resources and ultimately much higher levels of foreign aid assistance.

International family planning funding must be restored. Not only is it a public health issue, but family planning is the answer to the question of overpopulation. Global population now exceeds 5.7 billion people. If nothing is done to stem this growth, the Earth's population will quadruple to over 19 billion people by the end of the next century. Uncontrolled population growth not only causes extreme poverty, unemployment, and urban overcrowding, but it is having an enormously damaging effect on our environment and public health.

In much of the developing world, overpopulation, caused mainly by the lack of access of women to basic reproductive health services and information, is contributing to impoverishment, malnutrition, and hopelessness. The damaging effect on the world's environment is resulting in resource depletion, tropical deforestation, extinction of certain plants and animals, and pollution of air, water, and land. Population growth is outstripping the capacity of many nations to make even slight gains in economic development leading to political instability.

Overpopulation must be addressed by sustainable development programs. There are three key areas which will target overpopulation directly: international family planning, financial commitment, and technical expertise. Practically every major innovation in the population and family planning field can be linked to U.S. support. Modern technology has also been applied to the population field in the areas of mass communication, biotechnology, and biomedical research in the development of new contraceptives.

Funding for international family planning is not about whether women in third world countries have abortions. The ramifications to funding cuts stretch from health counseling to global warming. Family planning directly deals with the protection of our environment, economy, and the health of women and children. We must work to maintain sustainable development programs to protect our environment, public health, and future. Please join me in the fight to restore this vital funding.

## HARD TIME FOR GUN CRIMES ACT

HON. JON CHRISTENSEN

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 1996

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Hard Time for Gun Crimes Act.

This bill would make it clear that the problem with guns in our society is not the guns but the felons who use them for a criminal purpose. The bill would dramatically increase the penalties for possessing, brandishing, or discharging a firearm during the commission of a Federal felony.

For instance, under my bill, if you fire a gun during the commission of a Federal crime: It it's the first offense, you'll get 30 extra years in jail; if it's the second offense, you'll get a minimum 50 extra years in jail.

The key message is that we've had it with gun-related violence. Americans have zero tolerance for gun crime, so our justice system should too. Our families and children shouldn't be afraid to walk to school, go to the grocery store, and leave their windows open at night.

That's why I think we should work to keep those who would misuse guns in jail. No more slick criminal defense attorneys pushing criminals to freedom through legal loopholes. No more soft sentences after teary speeches before the bench. No more legal gymnastics setting criminals free after a fraction of their allotted time in jail.

For 30 years, we've heard about rehabilitation and the root causes of crime. We should try to reform those who've committed crimes. We should try to address the grinding poverty of our urban areas, with welfare reform, for instance. But one of the root causes of crime—criminals. Put a career criminal back on the street, and he's not rehabilitated, he's rejuvenated. What's gotten lost is punishment.

The Hard Time for Gun Crimes Act sends a clear message: If you use a gun to commit a felony, plan on spending the next few decades behind bars—no exceptions.

## TRIBUTE TO GEORGE DITOMASSI, THIS YEAR'S AMBASSADOR OF IRELAND AWARD

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 1996

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute today to George Ditomassi, a constituent of mine who has distinguished himself both professionally and privately, as a man of significant accomplishment and compassion. Mr. Ditomassi is the Chairman of Milton-Bradley Co. in East Longmeadow, MA, a toy and game manufacturer owned by the Hasbro Corporation.

For as long as I can remember, George Ditomassi has given generously to the communities in which he lives and works. Year-in and year-out George Ditomassi is a good friend and neighbor to western Massachusetts. Though he sits on the corporate boards of some of America's largest companies, he also contributes his time to local and neighborhood organizations. In his many and varied roles,

George Ditomassi has favorably impacted the lives of thousand of other people. That, in part, is why I have chosen to recognize him here today.

On Sunday, March 17, St Patrick's Day, George Ditomassi will be given the Ambassador of Ireland Award by the Holyoke, MA, St Patrick's Day Parade Committee. The Ambassador's Award is given annually to an American citizen who is judged by the committee to have built an economic or social bridge between our two great nations. George Ditomassi fits this description extremely well.

Raised in Holyoke, a long-time Irish enclave in western Massachusetts, George Ditomassi understands well the contributions that Irish-Americans have made to American society. As a businessman, he clearly understands the value that is added to a company by a well educated and highly skilled workforce, the type which is found in Ireland.

As the chairman of the Milton-Bradley Co., Mr. Ditomassi has guided his company's decision to own and operate a manufacturing facility in Waterford County, Ireland. With over 500 people employed by Milton-Bradley at the facility, the plant is one of the largest employers in Waterford. It is a boon to the local economy and Mr. Ditomassi calls it "a jewel in our crown." It is his stewardship of this investment in the Irish economy that has qualified George Ditomassi for the 1996 Ambassador of Ireland Award and also, it is the other part of why I have chosen to recognize him in the House of Representatives today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating George Ditomassi for his upcoming receipt of the Ambassador of Ireland Award, and also, for a lifetime of service to his community.

## IN HONOR OF WILLIAM DEAN, WORLD WAR I VETERAN

HON. KAREN L. THURMAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 1996

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable individual, William Dean, who passed away on March 11, 1996.

Mr. Dean, who lived with his wife at Cloverleaf Farms, Brooksville, was 1 of fewer than 20 World War I veterans in Florida. He would have celebrated his 97th birthday on March 20.

Mr. Speaker, veterans of World War I have stood up for America longer than any other group—three quarters of a century. Their determination and pressure has insured that benefits and programs are today available for all veterans.

In June 1917, William Dean, at the tender age of 18, was mustered from his regiment in the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania National Guard and sent to the battlefields of Europe.

Mr. Dean served with distinction and honor in both France and Belgium as a private and then a wagoner in the cavalry. His service has been recognized by both countries with ribbons and medals.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Dean's great service to his Nation was in keeping with a long family tradition.

His grandfather served in the Civil War with the Union Army of the Potomac, having volunteered at the age of 34 with the Pennsylvania cavalry.